

09/08/00

**METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR SELECTIVELY
INJECTING POULTRY EGGS**

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Abstract

A method for distinguishing live from dead poultry eggs comprises: (a) providing a light source (preferably an infrared light source) and a light detector in opposite facing relation to one another; (b) passing an egg between the light source and light detector; (c) switching the light source at a frequency greater than 100 cycles per second while passing the egg between the light source and the light detector; and (d) detecting light that passes through the egg from the light source with the light detector. Preferably, the egg is passed between the light source and the light detector without making contact therewith.

15 And the method preferably further comprises the step of electronically filtering the signal detected by the light detector to distinguish light emitted from the light source from ambient light. Steps (b) through (d) may be repeated at a rate of at least one egg per second. Apparatus for carrying out the foregoing method is also provided. A method of selectively injecting only eggs identified as suitable

20 for injection, and apparatus for carrying out such a method, is described.

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